



Culture and World Heritage Myanmar

MAY 22—June 1st , 2017

May 22 : YANGON

(D)



We'll all meet up at the hotel in Yangon to enjoy a welcome cocktail, and receive an orientation from our AltruVistas and our in-country representative and our local tour guide/translator. Then we are off for our **Welcome Dinner**.

In the evening we'll visit 2500-year-old **Schwedagon Palace**, with a special opportunity to start our journey with a **Traditional Oil Lamp offering**.

May 23 YANGON

(B, L)

Today we'll explore the beautiful capital , **Yangon City Tour**. We'll also visit and enjoy time to shoot the country's revered and enormous reclining **Buddha Chaukhtatgyi** that's nearly six stories tall . After lunch we will meet with **Girl Determined**, a local NGO and visit a school where **Colorful Girl Circles** take place, then we'll split into small groups to go to the girls' homes and meet their families. Afternoon is free to visit the **Bogyoke Market** to purchase your final souvenirs or wander local book stores and art galleries Dinner is on our own tonight.

May 24th : BAGAN

(B, L)

Ending our time in Yangon, we'll pack up and fly north in the morning to **Bagan, home to 3000 Buddhist temples** dating back as far as the 11th century. Considered on par with Angkor Wat in Cambodia, these temples are scattered across the plains and create an unforgettable vision and an excellent place for exploration. After a morning overview of the area, we'll have a presentation on the architectural evolution of the Bagan temples by our local guide in the hotel. We'll then we will head out to explore more of the area, and enjoy a **horse cart ride at sunset**

May 25th BAGAN

(B, D)

The morning is free for you to explore on your own, take a mornign ballon ride, rent bikes, or wander through town with your cameras. In the afternoon, we'll head out to **Shwezigon Pagoda**, built in 1102 AD and the most important shrine for prayer in Bagan. From there, we'll drive



to **Myingaba Village to explore Gubyaukgyi Temple**, the best example of an early Bagan style temple. We'll explore Myingaba Village on foot and meet some villagers making lacquerware. In the late afternoon, we'll go by bus to **Guni Temple to view the sunset over the Bagan plains** and take a horse cart back to the hotel. The Evening is free for Joe's Photographic Reviews.

May 26 BAGAN/MANDALAY (B, L)



Today will find us on a **Malikha boat**, traveling up the Irrawaddy River to Mandalay. This day-long trip will pass by rural riverside villages, and give us time to kick back and catch up on journaling before heading into the hustle and bustle of Mandalay. We'll have a box lunch during our journey, and pass our time one by one with a traditional **Burmese fortune teller**. He uses an astrological system which is based on the zodiac of stars, planets and the time of birth and age. Only time will tell whether his predictions will be accurate! We'll arrive in time for dinner and enjoy a cultural comedy show by the famous **Moustache Brothers**.

May 27th :MANDALAY

(B, L)

Enjoy a city tour of historic sites. Then we are off to **Sagaing, a spiritual pilgrimage site with over 600 white-pagodas** where we will have time to photograph at our leisure.



May 28th :Inle Lake

(B,L)

This morning we'll fly to Heho, and travel to our hotel near Inle Lake. This is a beautiful highland area inhabited by many different ethnic tribes, including the Intha people who are known for their unique leg rowing. Later, we'll visit Inle Lake's famous silk weaving workshop in Innpawkhone Village and meet the owner and her weavers (all are women). We'll also visit Nampan Village and observe the villagers working on their floating gardens.

Afternoon free to end at a Red Mountain Winery.

May 29th :Inle Lake

(B, L)

We'll join a local cooking school, Bamboo Delight, to prepare our own lunch. Starting with a visit to a local market to choose our ingredients, we'll return to our chef's home and put together a sumptuous meal. In the afternoon we will meet with women weavers at the Khit Sunn Yin Lotus, Silk and Cotton Hand Weaving Centre. Lotus plants grow in abundance in Inle Lake and here we will learn more about their use, the folklore around the lotus and the importance of Fair Trade. Enjoy our tour on the lake.

May 30th Inle Lake ot MANDALAY

(B, D)

This morning we'll visit **a monastery** that is home to over 400 nuns. We'll visit with the **Sagiang school** in the afternoon. After some free time to explore the streets on your own for a photo walk, or shopping we will have our **Farewell Dinner** together with a **Puppet Show**.



June 1st check out and fly to Bangkok for your flight to Paro, Bhutan